

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-09 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-03 COME-00 ACDA-09 SCCT-01

TRSE-00 OPR-01 PC-01 DRC-01 /075 W

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R 070854Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7450

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: WEYERHAEUSER SITUATION

REF: MANILA 11426 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL PHILIPPINE MILITARY, ACCORDING TO WEYERHAEUSER SOURCE, BROUGHT IN FOUR ARMY BATTALIONS INCLUDING ONE FROM JOLO, 700 MARINES, 5 SHIPS, AND CONSIDERABLE AIR SUPPORT IN ORDER TO FORCE WITHDRAWAL OF REBELS FROM WEYERHAEUSER CONCESSION IN LEBAK, SULTAN KUDARAT PROVINCE. GOVERNMENT FORCES THEN SECURED AREA WITH MINIMUM LOSSES. FIGHTING ENDED LAST WEEK EXCEPT FOR MOPPING UP OPERATIONS, AND ARMY ROUNDED UP FOR INTERROGATION IN AREA AS FAR SOUTH AS KIAMBA, 20 MILES DOWN COAST, 6,000 OF LOCAL POPULATION SUSPECTED OF BEING REBEL SUPPORTERS OR, IN SOME CASES, REBELS.

2. CAPTURED POPULATION OF 6,000 INCLUDED ONLY 450 MEN, SOME OF WHOM ARE REPORTEDLY BEING QUOTE DISPOSED OF UNQUOTE FOLLOWING INTERROGATION. DETAINEES GENERALLY ARE LOCAL RESIDENTS, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW STRANGERS. DETAINEES STATE THAT FIRST WEYERHAEUSER AMBUSH WAS BY REBELS BASED IN AREA, BUT THAT SECOND AMBUSH WAS CARRIED

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OUT BY REBEL TROOPS WITHDRAWING FROM UPI NEAR COTABATO

CITY, WHERE REBELS SEIZED AND HELD THE TOWN FOR ONE WEEK.
DETAINEES CLAIM THEY FORCED TO COOPERATE WITH REBELS FROM
UPI DURING RECENT FIGHTING.

3. REBELS WERE EXTREMELY WELL ENTRENCHED, WITH LAND MINES
AND ROW UPON ROW OF FOXHOLES TO PERMIT STAGED WITHDRAWAL.
REBELS SEEMINGLY DID NOT KNOW HOW TO ACTIVATE LAND MINES,
HOWEVER. OTHER THAN THOSE KILLED IN BOMBARDMENT, MOST
REBELS APPARENTLY WITHDREW SUCCESSFULLY.

4. WEYERHAEUSER HAS BEGUN QUOTE DUMPING UNQUOTE LOGS
AGAIN IN PREPARATION FOR SHIP WHICH IT HOPES WILL PICK UP
LOAD FROM LOG POND THIS WEEK. COMPANY HOPES NEXT WEEK TO
GET INTO LOGGING AREAS TO INSPECT EQUIPMENT AND ROADS.
MILITARY STILL HAS TWO BATTALIONS IN AREA.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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